

Homelessness in Pierce County

2019 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

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Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

- Annual count of literally homeless people:
 - unsheltered,
 - in emergency shelter, or
 - in transitional housing
- Unsheltered count historically conducted by volunteers via paper survey of consenting individuals
- Sheltered data collected digitally from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

2019 Process Highlights

- Continuously reached out to encampments to ensure people were aware of the upcoming count
 - New dedicated outreach teams to Eastern Pierce and Key Peninsula
- Conducted surveys via mobile app – Counting Us
- Surveyed encampments in the middle of the night
 - 10pm to 3am (versus 1am to 5am in 2018)
 - Additionally, conducted an observation count of unsheltered people who didn't consent to a survey
- Conducted street count between 7am and 7pm
- Received record level of donations

2019 PIT Results

1,486

Homeless persons counted



24%

Chronically
homeless



25%

Members of families
with children



38%

Female



7%

Adult survivors of
domestic violence



10%

Unaccompanied
youth & young
adults



9%

Veterans



46%

People of color*

*However, people of color make up only 26% of the
Pierce County population. (ACS estimate 2017)



Pierce County
Human Services

Not all people experiencing homelessness sleep outside



47%

Emergency
shelter



28%

Out of doors
(street, tent, etc.)



11%

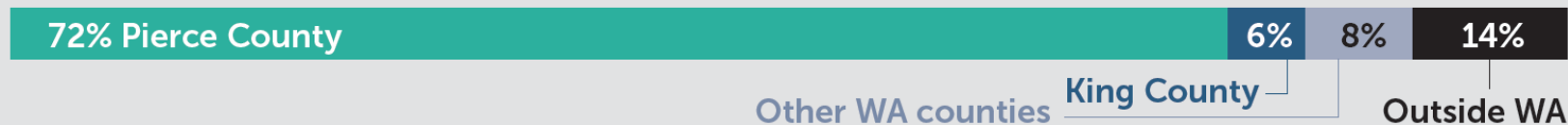
Transitional
housing



14%

Vehicle, abandoned
building, other

Most told us they lived in Pierce County before they became homeless

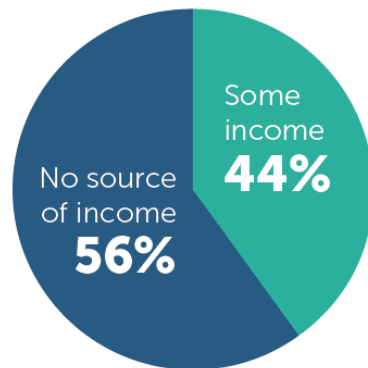


The main causes of homelessness are economic and housing-related

Survey respondents shared many causes for becoming homeless. These are the top three:

1. Lack of affordable housing
2. Inadequate income or employment
3. Eviction

Many people experiencing homelessness have an income



44% of people who are homeless in Pierce County report at least one source of income.

Mental illness is the most commonly reported disability

Here is the breakdown of the most commonly reported disabilities. Some people reported having multiple disabilities.

Mental illness

36%

Physical disability

30%

Chronic health condition

30%

Substance use

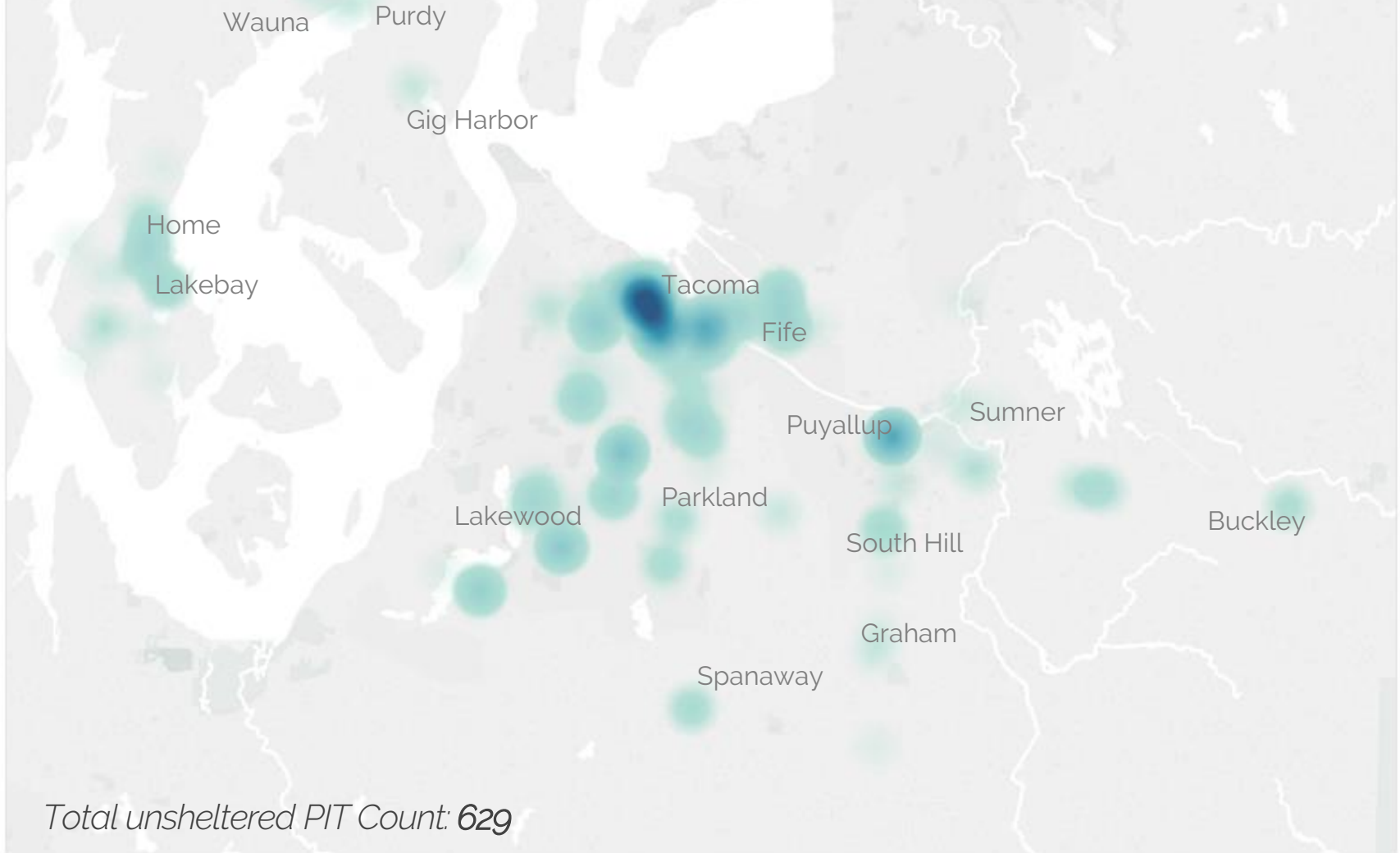
23%

Developmental disability

10%

The unsheltered population in Pierce County

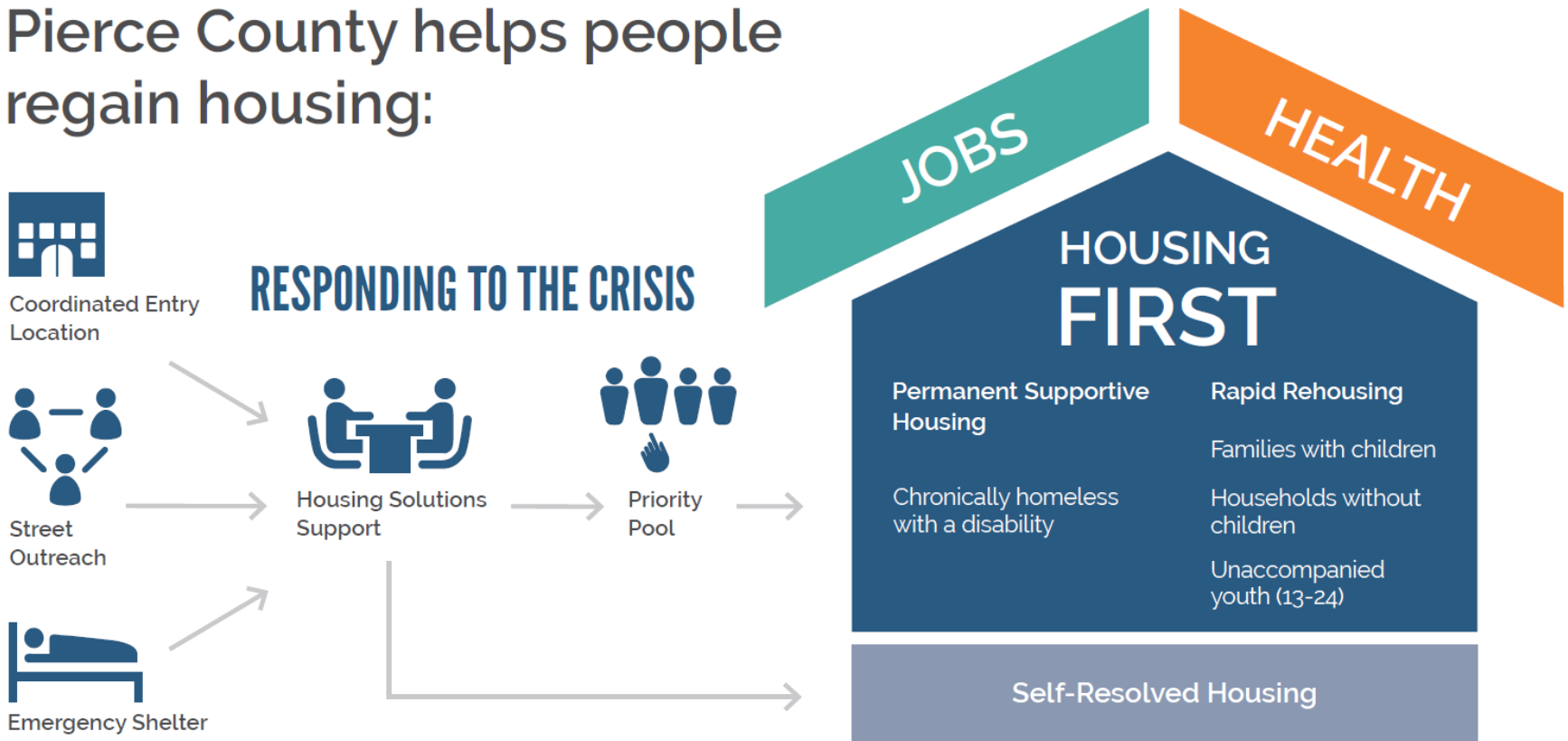
Darker areas indicate more PIT surveys/observations



Housing ends the crisis of homelessness.

Jobs and healthcare help people keep a roof over their heads.

Pierce County helps people regain housing:



Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

- Annual count of temporary and permanent crisis-response housing inventory:
 - emergency shelter,
 - transitional housing,
 - rapid rehousing (including SSVF),
 - permanent supportive housing (including VASH), and
 - other permanent housing (as defined by HUD)
- Collected digitally from HMIS
- Rapid rehousing capacity defined as count of persons moved in to rapid rehousing units on the night of the PIT
- Census of beds, not Coordinated Entry resources (e.g. diversion)

2019 HIC Results

Program Type	Total Beds
Emergency Shelter	766
Transitional Housing	160
Rapid Rehousing	606 (inc. 76 SSVF)
Permanent Supportive Housing	847 (inc. 312 VASH)
Other Permanent Housing	550
Total	2,929

- Utilization rate on night of PIT: **92%**
 - Regularly fluctuates between 90% and 110%
- RRH beds represent one-night estimate, not year-round capacity
- Total organizations: 26
- Total projects: 77

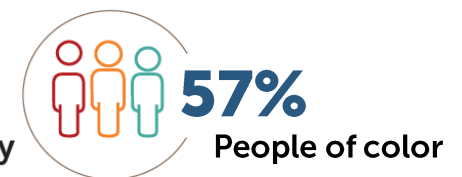
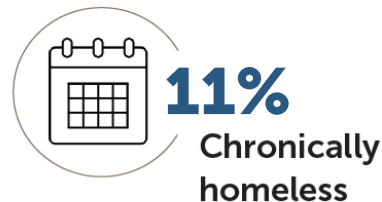
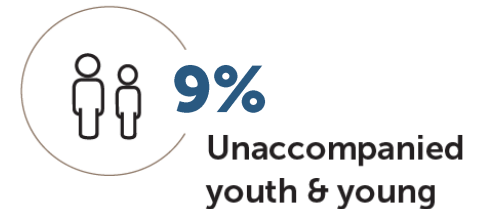
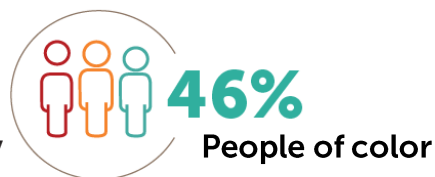
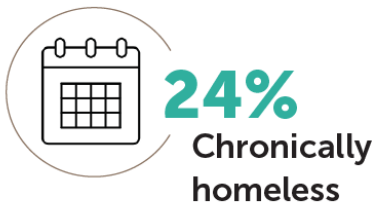
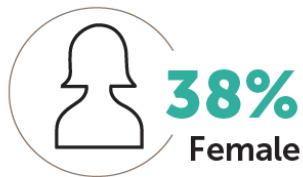
Comparing PIT and HMIS

1,486

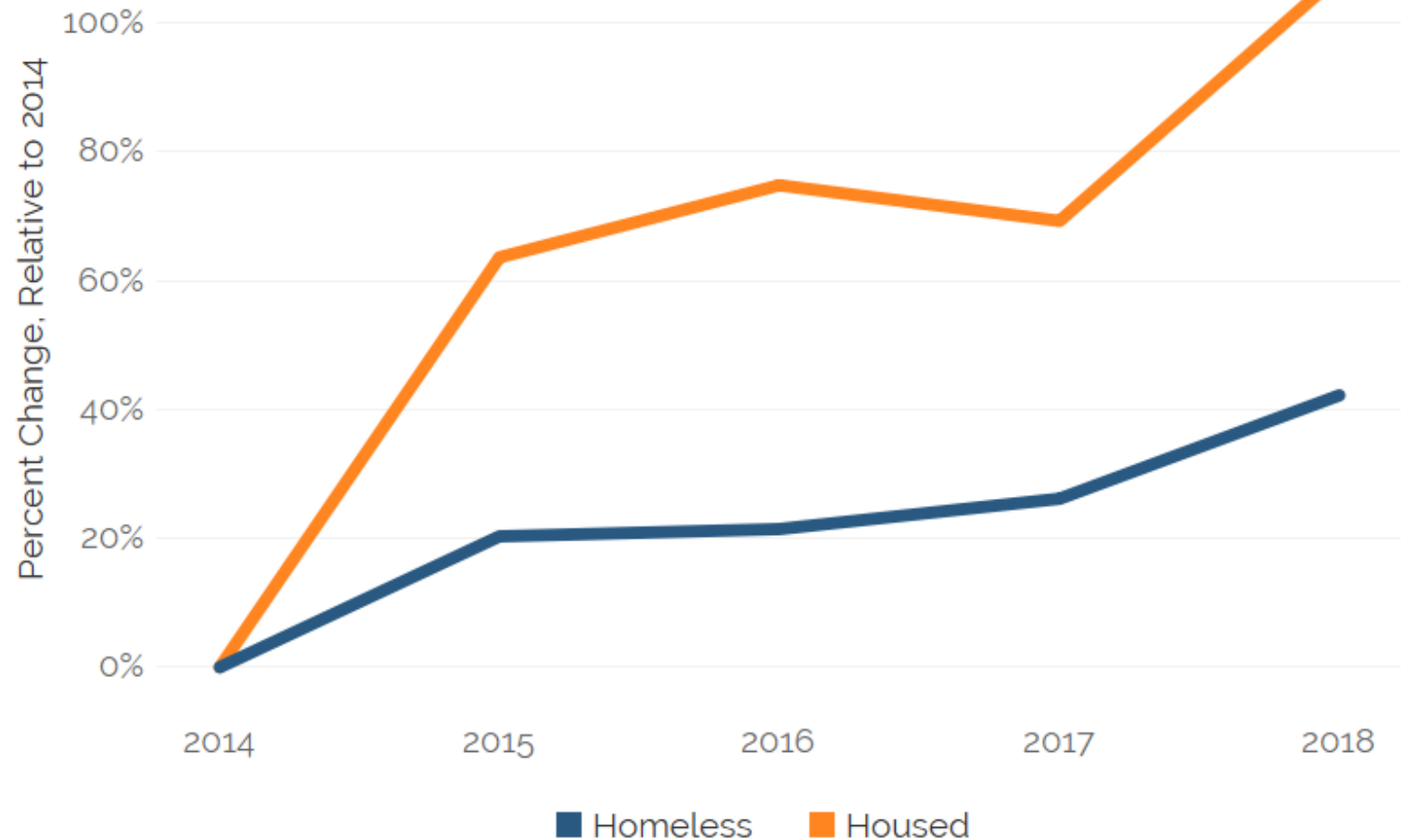
PIT Count, 2019 (one night)

10,860

HMIS census, 2018 (year-round)



Over the past five years, the increase in persons housed by Pierce County has outpaced the increase in persons seeking homelessness services.



Public-facing dashboards

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Infographics and Dashboards



Conclusions

- The PIT Count finds a nine-percent drop in persons counted between 2018 and 2019
 - We attribute most of the decline to the 16-percent decrease in unsheltered persons counted
- The 2019 HIC shows high system utilization and county-wide HMIS participation
 - PSH unit demand surpasses supply
- Analysis of HMIS data suggests the Pierce County crisis-response system has realized efficiency gains that have outpaced the growth in homelessness
- Interactive infographics and dashboards on the County website facilitate transparency and accountability

While Pierce County is making progress, the crisis isn't over for everyone.



To help keep the roof on,
we need **more affordable
housing**, **more living
wage jobs**, and **access to
behavioral health care**.



And for the most vulnerable to
receive the help they need, we
need **more permanent housing
with support services**. That's
how we right-size our response.